



NWT

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP 2025

APRIL 23-25 | CHATEAU NOVA HOTEL | YELLOWKNIFE



AGENDA



*Thank you
to our
partners:*



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WEDNESDAY APRIL 23 • *LEARNING TOGETHER, LISTENING TO EACH OTHER*

8:00 - 9:00 am	Check-in and pick up your name badge Breakfast, coffee and networking
9:00 - 9:45 am	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drummers, opening prayer, land acknowledgement • Welcoming remarks - YKDFN, GNWT, City of Yellowknife, NWTAC • Overview of the workshop
9:50 - 10:10 am	Icebreaker activity
10:10 - 10:30 am	BREAK
10:30 - 11:30 am	Good fire, bad fire: Reintegrating fire into the landscape <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Amy Cardinal Christianson (presenting remotely), Indigenous Leadership Initiative • Joe Gilchrist, Secwepmc Fire Keeper, BC
11:40 - 12:00 pm	Wildfire preparedness basics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Westwick, GNWT-ECC
12:00 - 1:00 pm	LUNCH
1:00 - 1:40 pm	NWT wildfire retrospective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brent Starling, GNWT-ECC
1:40 - 2:45 pm	Community experiences and learning from each other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAOs, Band Managers and Fire Chiefs from four communities
2:45 - 3:15 pm	BREAK
3:15 - 3:45 pm	2023 Enterprise After Fire Report – Lessons learned and future work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greg Baxter, FP Innovations
3:45 - 4:15 pm	Building the plane as we fly it – Wildland Urban Interface in Alberta <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rodney Schmidt, Fire Chief, Town of High Level
4:15 - 4:30 pm	Wrap up and look ahead



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THURSDAY APRIL 24 • BUILDING PREPAREDNESS

8:00 - 9:00 am	Breakfast, coffee and networking
9:00 - 9:15 am	Welcome back and announcements
9:15 - 10:15 am	Who does what? Preparedness mandates, jurisdiction and cooperation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mike Gravel, ECC Forest Management Division• Nahum Lee, ECC Land and Water Division, North Slave• Michelle Pond, MACA Emergency Management Office• Craig Halifax, MACA Office of the Fire Marshal• Fred Behrens, SAO, Community Government of Wekweeti
10:15 - 10:35 am	Relaunching the FireSmart Program in the NWT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mike Westwick, GNWT-ECC
10:35 - 10:55 am	BREAK
10:55 - 12:00 pm	Learning sessions <i>Participants have time to attend two of the three sessions</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Plans: Getting to know your planning tools2. Funding: Making the most of funding opportunities and tools3. Stress management and mental health as part of wildfire resilience
12:00 - 1:00 pm	LUNCH
1:00 - 1:45 pm	Fire in the past and future: Sharing research findings <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jennifer Baltzer, Wilfrid Laurier University• Marc-André Parisiene, Canadian Forest Service
1:45 - 2:45 pm	Good Fire: Using fire for hazard reduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joe Gilchrist, Secwepmc Fire Keeper• Danny Beaulieu, Mayor of Fort Providence• Rodney Schmidt, Fire Chief, Town of High Level
2:45 - 3:15 pm	BREAK
3:15 - 4:15 pm	Getting the most out of your community's fuel breaks <i>Presentation and breakout groups</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carla Johnston, Balsillie School of International Affairs• Westly Steed and Andrew Carpenter, GNWT-ECC
4:15 - 4:30 pm	Wrap up and look ahead

Join us to share a meal, get inspired and connect with others!

EVENING DINNER AND SOCIAL in collaboration with United Way

6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

From devastation to resilience: Sharing learnings from Lytton

Talk delivered by guest speaker Patrick Michell, retired Chief of T'eqt'aqtn'mux (Kanaka Bar Indian Band), Lytton First Nation Rebuild Director

FRIDAY APRIL 25 • MOVING TO ACTION

8:00 - 9:00 am	Breakfast, coffee and networking
9:00 - 9:15 am	Welcome back and announcements
9:15 - 10:00 am	Reflections and moving forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrick Michell, retired Chief of T'eqt'aqtn'mux (Kanaka Bar Indian Band) & Lytton First Nation Rebuild Director
10:00 - 10:30 am	BREAK
10:30 - 12:00 pm	Interactive sessions <i>Participants will rotate through a series of small group discussions to identify needs, priorities, and next steps on topics such as:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Wildfire Protection Plan and other plans • Fuel breaks • Prescribed burns and cultural burning • Stress and mental health • Training needs • Funding
12:00 - 1:00 pm	LUNCH
1:00 - 1:30 pm	Debrief from Interactive sessions
1:30 - 2:45 pm	Coming together as regions Regional group discussions that will build on what has been learned to: explore ways to work together, identify the supports that are needed and make plans to move forward.
2:45 - 3:15 pm	BREAK
3:15 - 3:45 pm	Coming together as regions – conclusion
3:45 - 4:15 pm	Wrap up and closing remarks

Contact information

Miki Ehrlich miki@nwtac.com

Lisa Tesar lisa.thebottomline@gmail.com

NWTAC office (867) 873-8359